

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 1 with the following amended paragraph:

This application is a continuation (and claims the benefit of priority under 35 USC 120) of U.S. application serial number 09/991,418, filed November 15, 2001, ~~and provisional application serial no. 60/249,413, filed November 16, 2000.~~ which claims the benefit of the filing date of provisional application serial number 60/249,413, filed November 16, 2000. The disclosures of the prior applications are considered part of (and are incorporated by reference in) the disclosure of this application.

Amendments to the claims (this listing replaces all prior versions):

- 1-14. (canceled)
15. (previously presented) Apparatus comprising
a lubricator to apply lubricant to a strand as it is pulled through a conduit, the lubricator including a coupling feature to mate with a corresponding coupling feature of a bushing.
16. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 15 in which the strand comprises an insulated electrical wire ~~or the like~~.
17. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 15 in which the coupling feature of the lubricator comprises threads.
18. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 15 in which the threads comprise external threads.
19. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 15 in which the lubricator also includes a second coupling feature configured to mate with a corresponding coupling feature of the conduit.
20. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 19 in which the second coupling feature of the lubricator comprises threads.
21. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 19 in which the threads comprise internal threads.

22. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 15 in which a body of the lubricator is formed of two connectable components.

23. (previously presented) Apparatus comprising
a lubricator to apply lubricant to a strand as it is pulled through a conduit, the lubricator including

an external thread to mate with a corresponding internal thread of a bushing, and
an internal thread to mate with a corresponding external thread of the conduit.

24. (previously presented) Apparatus comprising
a lubricator to apply lubricant to a strand as it is pulled through a conduit, the lubricator comprising two body sections that can be connected to one another to form the lubricator, each of the body sections comprising a sleeve, the sleeves of the two body sections being aligned when the two body sections are connected to form the body, and a pin that slides removably into and out of the sleeves to hold the body sections together and to permit the body sections to be taken apart.

25. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 24 in which the lubricator includes an axis that is aligned along the length of the strand and the pin includes an axis that is parallel to the lubricator axis.

26. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 24 in which each body comprises a second sleeve, the second sleeves of the two body sections are aligned when the two body sections are connected to form the body, and a second pin slides into the second sleeves to also hold the body sections together.

27. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 26 in which the lubricator includes an axis that is aligned along the length of the strand and the second pin includes an axis that is parallel to the lubricator axis.

28. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 24 in which the strand comprises an insulated electrical wire ~~or the like~~.

29-35 (canceled)

36. (previously presented) An automatic wire lubricating device, comprising:

(a) two body sections each having opposite ends and respective end faces on said opposite ends, each of said body sections defining a portion of an interior reservoir formed by said body sections when assembled together at said end faces;

(b) a fastener to releasably fasten said body sections together at said end faces to form an annular body having a longitudinal central axis, said fastener including

(i) sleeves attached at said opposite ends of each of said body sections and aligned axially with one another in pairs along opposite side axes which extend substantially parallel to said longitudinal central axis and lie substantially in a common plane formed by said end faces when said body sections are assembled into said annular body, and

(ii) a pair of pins inserted through one of said pairs of aligned sleeves along said one of said opposite side axes for releasably securing said assembled body sections together;

(c) passages to provide flow communication from said interior reservoir to said central opening when said body sections are fastened together; and

(d) threads formed by said assembled body sections at one of said axially displaced ends to attach a member to facilitate application of lubricant on wire being pulled through said nipple and said central opening of said annular body.

37. (previously presented) An automatic wire lubricating device, comprising:

(a) two body sections each having opposite ends and respective end faces on said opposite ends, each of said body sections defining a portion of an interior reservoir formed by said body sections when assembled together at said end faces;

(b) a fastener to releasably fasten said body sections together at said end faces to form an annular body having a longitudinal central axis, said fastener including

(i) sleeves attached at said opposite ends of each of said body sections in offset relation to one another and extending substantially equidistantly in opposite directions in relation to said interior reservoir, said sleeves at a respective one of said opposite ends of said body sections being aligned axially with one another in pairs along opposite side axes which extend substantially parallel to said longitudinal central axis and lie substantially in a common plane formed by said end faces when said body sections are assembled together into said annular body, and

(ii) a pair of pins each inserted through one of said pairs of aligned sleeves along said one of said opposite side axes for releasably securing said assembled body sections together;

(c) passages to provide flow communication from said interior reservoir to said central opening when said body sections are fastened together; and

(d) a seal located at said end faces and at opposite ends of halves of said interior reservoir to make a tight seal of and provide communication between said halves of said interior reservoir when said first and second components are fastened together.

38. (previously presented) An automatic wire lubricating device, comprising:

(a) two body sections each having opposite ends and respective end faces on said opposite ends, each of said body sections defining a portion of an interior reservoir formed by said body sections when assembled together at said end faces;

(b) a fastener to releasably fasten said body sections together at said end faces to form an annular body having a longitudinal central axis, said fastener including

(i) sleeves attached at said opposite ends of each of said body sections in offset relation to one another and extending substantially equidistantly in opposite direction relative to said continuous cylindrical interior reservoir and partially projecting beyond said flat end faces of said body sections such that said sleeves at a respective one of said opposite ends of said body sections are aligned axially with another in pairs along opposite side axes which extend substantially parallel to said longitudinal central axis of said annular body and lie substantially in a common plane formed by said flat end faces when said body sections of said first and second components are assembled together into said annular body, and

(ii) a pair of pins each inserted through and withdrawable from one of said pairs of axially aligned hollow sleeves along one of said opposite side axes for releasably securing said assembled body sections together into said annular body and for taking apart from one another said assembled body sections of said annular body, said pins being inserted in the same one direction along said respective parallel side axes through said pairs of aligned hollow sleeves for releasably securing said assembled body sections together into said annular body and correspondingly said pins being withdrawable in a same other direction being the reverse of said

same one direction along said respective parallel side axes from said pairs of aligned hollow sleeves for taking said body sections apart from one another;

(c) circumferentially spaced dispensing holes defined through interior walls portions of said body sections which provide flow communication between said interior reservoir and said central opening;

(d) threads formed by said assembled body sections at one of said axially displaced ends to attach a member to facilitate application of lubricant on wire being pulled through said nipple and said central opening of said annular body;

(e) threads formed by the other of the axially displaced ends of said annular body to attach to a threaded end of a conduit through which the wire is to be pulled; and

(g) hollow coupler pins attached on said flat end faces and having O-rings disposed around said hollow coupler pins so as to make a tight seal of said interior reservoir at said flat end faces of said body sections when said first and second components are fastened together.